

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

10. (currently amended) A random number generation device comprising:

an environmental sensor that generates digitally encoded sensor values;

a compressor that receives the digitally encoded sensor values generated by the environmental ~~compressor~~ sensor and compresses the received digitally encoded sensor values to generate a compressed data stream;

a monitor that receives the compressed data stream and monitors the compressed data stream to determine whether or not sufficient data has been received in the compressed data stream to generate a next random number;

a random number generator that receives data from the compressed data stream and outputs random numbers; and

a blocking switch controlled by the monitor to block output of a next random number by the random number generator when sufficient data to generate the next random number has not been received in the compressed data stream to generate a next random number.

11. (currently amended) The random number generation device of claim 10 further comprising:

one or more additional environmental sensors;

an additional compressor for each of the one or more additional environmental sensors; and

a merging component that merges the compressed data streams output by the compressor and the additional compressors for each of the one or more additional environmental sensors to produce a merged, compressed data stream that is output to the monitor and random number generator.

12. (previously presented) The random number generation device of claim 11 wherein the random number generator applies a hash function to the received data to produce a random number for output by the random number generation device.

13. (previously presented) The random number generation device of claim 11 wherein each environmental sensor monitors an environmental parameter, the environmental parameter selected from among environmental parameters including:

- temperature;
- sound;
- motion;
- light intensity; and
- ambient electromagnetic radiation.